

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 HA-05
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /083 W
-----040781 242224Z /64

P R 242051Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1737
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS (J5) WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN JOSE 3131

PASS ACDA AND AID/W

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MPOL, CS
SUBJ: ANNUAL INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE: COSTA
RICA

REF: STATE 167901

1. FOLLOWING ARE KEYED TO PARA 3A OF REFTTEL: (1) US INTERESTS TO BE SERVED: THE PRIMARY US FOREIGN POLICY INTEREST IN COSTA RICA DERIVES FROM COSTA RICA'S STATUS AS A PRACTICING DEMOCRACY, LEADER IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND SIGNIFICANT PARTICIPANT IN THE RESOLUTION OF HEMISPHERIC AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. THE MODEST US SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH COSTA RICA SUPPORTS THIS UNIQUE, CIVILIAN DOMINATED GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY, WITH WHICH THE US SHARES SO MANY VALUES AND GOALS, HELPING TO STRENGTHEN COSTA RICA'S SMALL AND RELATIVELY WEAK PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES. COSTA RICA, WHICH HAS NO ARMY, NAVY, OR AIR FORCE, RELIES UPON THE INTER AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL DEFENSE FOR ITS SECURITY FROM EXTERNAL ATTACK -- AND CONSEQUENTLY, WITH THE US, IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THIS COLLECTIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENT.

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AT THE SAME TIME, THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCE HAS A CONSTITUTIONALLY DEFINED RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE, AND THE US SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH COSTA RICA IS DESIGNED TO HELP THAT PUBLIC SECURITY FORCE DISCHARGE THAT RESPONSIBILITY.

2. STATEMENT OF THE THREAT: THERE IS NO EXTERNAL THREAT TO COSTA RICA. HOWEVER, EXILE GROUPS WHICH MIGHT OPERATE IN THE BORDER

AREAS AGAINST NEIGHBORING NICARAGUA AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, PANAMA, EVENTUALLY COULD LEAD TO A DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN COSTA RICA AND THOSE COUNTRIES.

THE INTERNAL SECURITY THREAT FROM LEFT OR RIGHT IS MINIMAL. ANY POTENTIAL UNREST OVER THE MID RANGE WOULD STEM FROM THE PARTISAN NATURE OF LOCAL POLITICS, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, OR BOTH. ONE SMALL

SEMI-CLANDESTINE, ANTI-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION COULD RESORT TO VIOLENCE IF THERE IS POLITICAL IMPASSE. THE SMALL MOSCOW-ORIENTED COMMUNIST PARTY WILL PROBABLY MAINTAIN A "PEACEFUL" LINE. SMALLER EXTREME LEFT PARTIES COULD PROVOKE UNREST AND VIOLENCE IF ONLY TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT.

3. MISSION'S PERCEPTION OF THREAT: SAME AS HOST GOVERNMENT.

4. MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT: THE SMALL COSTA RICAN PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES ARE RESPONSIBLE UNDER THE CONSTITUTION FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE.

5. US INTERESTS AND THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT: IT IS CLEARLY IN THE US INTEREST TO ASSIST IN THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES CAPABILITY OF PROVIDING INTERNAL SECURITY REQUIRED TO FOSTER ORDERLY POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN COSTA RICA'S EXISTING DEMOCRATIC TRADITION.

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6. DEFENSE SPENDING: "DEFENSE SPENDING" IN COSTA RICA IS ABSOLUTELY MINIMAL BY ANY STANDARD. THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES IN CY 77 WAS \$19.37 MILLION (3.6 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL BUDGET AND 0.67 PERCENT OF GDP), BUT THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF THESE FORCES IS NOT DEFENSE, HENCE EVEN THESE LOW PERCENTAGES REFLECT A GREATER ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO "DEFENSE" THAN IS IN FACT THE CASE. "MILITARY IMPORTS" ARE SIMILARLY BOTH DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY AND INSIGNIFICANT COMPARED TO TOTAL IMPORTS. COSTA RICA HAS NO UNUSUAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE OR DEBT SERVICING PROBLEMS.

7. (PARA 11) HUMAN RIGHTS: COSTA RICA HAS AN EXEMPLARY HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IN ALL RESPECTS. THE US COUNTRY PROGRAM CAN BEST PROMOTE US HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES BY CONTINUING MODEST ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SMALL OFFICE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION, THUS REAFFIRMING THE US COMMITMENT TO COSTA RICA'S DEFENSE THROUGH THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AND NOT ENCOURAGING ANY INCREASE IN NATIONAL RESOURCES TO BE DEVOTED TO PUBLIC SECURITY

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN JOSE 3131

PASS ACDA AND AID/W

8. (PARA 12) ASSISTANCE FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN US:
ECONOMIC: \$83.1 MILLION (CY 77)
MILITARY: NONE

9. (PARA 13)

	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82
\$ IN MILLIONS			
	DOD	COMM	DOD COMM
A) MINIMUM LEVEL			
FMS SPARE PARTS	.18	.18	.18
B) INTERMEDIATE LEVEL			
FMS SPARE PARTS	.18	.18	.18
AMMUNITION	.04	.04	.04
CEC) CURRENT LEVEL			
FMS RECON AIRPLANE		1 EA	
SPARE PARTS	.18	.18	.18
AMMUNITION	.04	.04	.04
D) INCREMENTAL LEVEL			
FMS RECON AIRPLANES		2 EA	2 EA
SPARE PARTS	.30	.40	.40

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AMMUNITION .10 .05 .05
E) A MINIMUM LEVEL PROGRAM PROVIDES FOR REPAIR PARTS SUPPORT OF A

LIMITED AND OBSOLETE NUMBER OF SMALL ARMS AND CREW SERVED WEAPONS THAT BARELY MEET THE MATERIAL NEEDS OF THE FORCE. WHILE SOME BENEFIT RESULTS FROM A MINIMAL DOD LEVEL OF EFFORT IN WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY AN ANTIMILITARISTIC SOCIETY, THERE EXISTS A DUAL RISK THAT THE INDIGENOUS FORCE MIGHT BE UNABLE TO PROPERLY PERFORM ITS ASSIGNED FUNCTIONS AND THAT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT MIGHT MISINTERPRET THE MARGINAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE US IN THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AREA. THERE ARE NO DIFFERENCES IN THE IMPACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE VARIOUS PROGRAM LEVELS; ALL FALL WITHIN THE OBJECTIVE OUTLINED ABOVE (#7). IN VIEW OF THE SMALL DOLLAR AMOUNTS INVOLVED, THERE WOULD BE NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE COUNTRY'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE FINANCIALLY FOR THE USUAL RANGE OF OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES; NO SUBSTANTIVE RESOURCES ARE BEING DIVERTED FROM THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SECTORS TO PROVIDE FOR DEFENSE.

VARIATIONS OF THE ABOVE APPLY TO THE OTHER LEVELS OF SUPPORT DISCUSSED WITH THE OVERALL SITUATION IMPROVING AS THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT INCREASES. IN THE CASE OF THE "CURRENT" AND "INCREMENTAL" LEVELS, SUPPORT IS INCLUDED FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE AIR AND MARITIME SECTIONS OF THE CIVIL GUARD WHICH WILL ENABLE THE COUNTRY TO BETTER PROTECT FOR THE SECURITY AND POLICING OF ITS BORDERS AND IMPROVEMENT OF SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.

ANOTHER INITIATIVE IS THE REPLACEMENT OF THE NOW VIRTUALLY UNSERVICEABLE AMMUNITION STOCKS. IT IS TO BE EXPECTED ALSO, THAT THE PATROL BOATS PURCHASED RECENTLY WILL REQUIRE INCREASING REPAIR PARTS SUPPORT IN THE OUT YEARS.

F3 THE PROPOSED MANNING LEVELS FOR THE OFFICE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION IN SAN JOSE ARE THE SAME FOR ALL LEVELS OF SUPPORT ENUMERATED PREVIOUSLY. THE PRESENT STRENGTH OF ONE OFFICER (O5), ONE EM (E7),
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AND THREE LWR EMPLOYEES (A SECRETARY, A DRIVER, A WAREHOUSEMEN) IS THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM NECESSARY IN THE FORM OF A SECURITY ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION FOR THE LEVELS OF SUPPORT CONTEMPLATED.

G) N/A

H) NOTE: THE MISSION DID CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF TRAINING (AT THE US NAVY'S CANAL ZONE SCHOOL FOR PATROL BOATS AND T USARSA), BUT THIS WAS REJECTED BECAUSE THERE IS NO WAY TO DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN THE EFFECT OF SUCH TRAINING ON THE POLICE AND MILITARY (DEFENSE) FUNCTIONS OF COSTA RICA'S PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES. INCLUSION OF RECON AIRCRAFT IN THE "CURRENT" LEVEL FOR FY 80 AND IN THE "INCREMENTAL" LEVEL FOR FY 81 AND 8/ ASSUMES THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO ASSURE OURSELVES THAT THE GOCR WILL PROPERLY MAINTAIN AND OPERATE THE AIRCRAFT FOR PURPOSES OF BORDER PATROL AND SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.

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